

**From:** jdrake@gi.alaska.edu@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/27/01 3:49pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am against the proposed Microsoft settlement, and the proposal that Microsoft donate millions of dollars to help bring technology to schools.

Giving Microsoft the opportunity to gain marketshare in education is not a good way to punish them for monopolistic practices.

One of Microsoft's business strategies has been the willingness to take short term losses in order to put others out of business and gain marketshare (eg. Netscape was damaged by Microsoft giving away the Explorer browser). This has given them the opportunity to make larger profits, and has given them more power to dictate what products will be allowed to compete in the marketplace.

It is too late to repair the damage done to other companies by Microsoft. And Microsoft has shown itself to be untrustworthy in following previous restrictions imposed by DOJ.

I have a potential solution:

I would be in favor of Microsoft giving billions to education IF ALL PRODUCTS IN THE SETTLEMENT ARE FROM MICROSOFT COMPETITORS. This would be a perfect solution. Educational institutions would benefit by gaining needed access to cutting edge technology. Microsoft competitors would also benefit, which is in keeping with a sense of justice for actions where Microsoft hurt competitors by their illegal practices. Consumers would benefit, as more choices are good in a capitalistic society. As an example Microsoft could purchase millions of Apple Macintosh computers for schools, thus helping the schools without enhancing Microsoft's position.

The proposed settlement does nothing significant in the sense of punishment or retribution, and will only enhance Microsoft's monopoly power in the long run - to the detriment of the consumer.

As a user of personal computers since their inception, I am stunned and severely disappointed by the outcome of the case and the proposed remedy. The governments case was very strong, and weakly settled.

Sincerely  
Jeff Drake  
1659 Wolverine Lane  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709